

Something About the UKRAINE



Typical Russian scene of the better class



The Harbor of Odessa, the Principal Seaport

Struggle of the Ukraine People to Maintain a National Life = Vast Resources and Fine Cities.

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WHEN THE NEWS reached the United States a few weeks ago that the Germans had signed a separate peace pact with the Ukraine, only a very limited number of people knew just what and where the Ukraine is, for the name is one familiar only to the student of history. It lies in the southwestern part of Russia, and is composed of a people who for several centuries have sought to maintain an individuality and national life at the cost of much suffering and bloodshed. Belonging, as their land did, to Russia, Poland and Austria, one read of them only as natives of those countries and the word Ukraine was seldom heard, the greater part of their country being known as "Little Russia." The land of the Bear became a sort of chaos after the revolution in March, 1917, and from present indications it seems that the whole of that vast land will be broken up into small states or provinces and be under German domination.

The first of these has come—the Ukrainian People's Republic. By the terms of the treaty with the Central Powers it comprises the provinces of

Volhynia, Chernigor, Podolia, Kiev, Poltava, Kharkov, Herson and Ekaterinoslav and contains at least two of the most important cities in Russia and much of its richest farming land. The province of Bessarabia, in which the city of Kishinev, made famous by the Jewish pogroms of a few years ago is located, is not included but is made a republic and is at present filled with troops from Roumania. Like all of Russia the history of the Ukrainian people is a stormy one, filled with revolutions and uprisings against the Jews, for it lies "Within the Pale."

Early History.

Its earlier history is difficult to trace out on account of being mixed with that of Poland and Russia, but in 1648, after suffering many years through being unable to have any say in government matters and being overburdened by heavy taxes, that part of the Ukraine belonging to Poland rose in rebellion. The Poles were defeated and the uprising spread through Russian Ukraine as well. Finally a sort of autonomy was granted, but by the time the Empress Catherine came into power it had waned, and although she

declared that she would protect the Ukraine, she subjected the people to a serfdom much worse than they had heretofore known. In 1773, when Poland was sliced up, a part of the Western Ukraine went to Austria, being known as Eastern Galicia. For a time the natives there enjoyed a certain freedom, but the part under Russian domination continued to be in a state of oppression. There were uprisings from time to time, until 1847, when a society composed of the educated men of Ukraine demanded a liberal constitution, which would abolish privileges and classes and give absolute freedom of thought, of speech and of religion. These men, however, were ahead of their time and the organization was wiped out, its leaders being sent into exile. After they served their sentences they returned and in a quiet way tried to ameliorate the conditions of the peasants. But the Russian Government frowned on their work and it was forbidden under heavy penalties. Many of the people

emigrated to the Austrian Ukraine and Lemberg became the educational center and head of the movement for the uplifting of the people. Russia then forbade the use of the Ukrainian language and while this law was obeyed openly the people continued to use their own language in their homes and teach it to their children. When the serfs were liberated in Russia in 1862, many of the Ukrainians returned home, for Austria had forgotten the promise she had made to them and life in Galicia was not pleasant. For a time all went well and then came the assassination of Alexander II, followed by riots against the Jews when much property in the Ukraine was destroyed. At this time many of the Jews of that section emigrated to the United States. Yet in spite of all these difficulties the Russian Ukraine made rapid progress and managed to retain their language which differs somewhat from the tongue of Greater Russia. The better class are well educated and the

Ukraine is rich in literature. They boast of a number of novelists and poets. One of their dramatists, Tolstoy, who died in 1907, being known throughout the literary world.

Pogroms.

The years of 1903, 1904 and 1905 were stormy ones for "Little Russia," as it was during this period that the Russian Government sanctioned pogroms against the Jews and massacres occurred, scenes being enacted which caused the civilized world to stand aghast in horror. A large number of people were killed and \$25,000,000 worth of Jewish property was destroyed, about two-thirds of it being in the Ukraine. Hundreds of Jews left the country going to the United States, South America and Africa. The Russian Government probably fearing the effect of their stories of the cruelties practiced, became more lenient and one of the steps thrown to the Ukraine was to permit newspapers to be published in their own language.

Then came the great war, and the Ukrainians went to the front still dreaming of a liberty and autonomy for their people—something they are not likely to receive from their peace pact with the Hun.

That the Ukraine will sell all her products to the Central Powers is one of the peace conditions. Just how Germany will get these supplies through war torn Russia is a problem and where she will get her transportation is another. Even the most optimistic German knows that getting these supplies is not all plain sailing for the Bolshevik forces are at work declaring one day that they will make peace with Germany and the next day that they will not, all the while destroying property and murdering people after the fashion of the French Revolutionists, for it seems that Russia has gone mad over her sudden freedom from the Czar's regime. Germany will find no easy task to get the products of the Ukraine into the Central Empires.

The new republic is about one and one-half times as large as the German Empire, having an area of about 500,000 square miles with a population of approximately 28,000,000 people.

Rich Land.

It is one of the world's greatest granaries, its farm lands being among the richest in Europe. The farmers are thrifty and industrious and the area farmed is 63 per cent, coming second in the list of European countries, France leading by only four per cent. The methods of cultivation are most primitive, much of the farm labor being done by the women who



The Cathedral of the Lavra Monastery Kiev—A Shrine for Pilgrims from all Parts of Russia

have only the crudest farming implements, yet with these adverse conditions one-third of all the wheat, rye and barley of Russia are grown in the Ukraine. The sugar beet production too is enormous, it being five-sixths of that of the entire Muscovite land. Cattle are raised in large numbers, thriving on the rich pasturage of the country. Indeed, nearly one-half of Russia's cattle is found in this section. One-half of all the pigs, sheep and goats of Russia are in the new republic, while fowls of all kinds thrive to such an extent that the egg market of the large cities of the land of the Bear are supplied from these farm yards. Game is plentiful and the fisheries yield annually about \$5,000,000 pounds.

Tobacco is grown in large quantities and is of a fine quality. The vineyards and orchards yield fruit with a prodigality which surprises even their owners. The coal deposits of that section are so large that 99 per cent, of the anthracite coal mined in Russia comes from the Ukraine. Other forms of mineral wealth, such as petroleum, peat, phosphoric, etc., are also found in abundance.

Fine Cities.

Of the cities much can be said in their favor for Kiev, the capital of the new republic, is one of the finest cities in Russia. To the travelers its beautiful churches are the attraction for here one finds the great Lavra Monastery, known throughout the world as a famous shrine of the Greek Church, and the mecca of thousands of pilgrims each year. The scenes about this edifice are wonderfully interesting. After passing through the gateway one finds the black-robed monks going to and fro mingling with the motley crowd of pilgrims who do not travel in their best clothes and have the appearance of a lot of beggars. High over head towers the front of the Cathedral covered with

pictures wherein pale blues and reds predominate with delicate lines of gilding for framework and an elaborate design of shining gold on the tower.

The interior contains sacred relics, which date back to the Thirteenth Century, as well as some of the most remarkable icons to be found in Russia. Catacombs are built under the monastery and a visit to them is well worth the time if the visitor is looking for the gruesome. The Cathedral of St. Vladimir and the Church of St. Andrew are also imposing structures with interesting histories. There is a fine university, a botanical garden, parks and pleasure grounds. The streets are well paved and clean and in the residential section there are fine homes. There are fine shops, theatres and movie parlors, and an abundance of dvorshiks.

Odessa on Black Sea is Russia's most important sea port and one of the newer cities for its first census was made in 1755, usually Russian cities date back to the Twelfth Century. It was from this port, before the war, that seven per cent, of all Russia's exports went to foreign lands and in reality is the most important commercial city of Russia.

Well Educated And Friendly.

The people of the Ukraine are taller and darker than those of the north and show a marked difference in temperament, manners and customs. They are more friendly to the foreigner than are the people of North Russia and welcome the traveler from abroad. The greater part of them are devoutly religious, especially the peasantry whose religion sometimes smacks of superstition.

Taking the Ukraine all in all it will be a valuable ally to the Central Powers, provided they can carry out their plans of provisioning themselves from her lands. At present this seems a doubtful proposition.

Uncle Sam Insures His Fighters



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The New War Risk Insurance Bureau In Operation—How It Brings Life Insurance and Disability Remuneration Within Reach of All Soldiers and Sailors—Details of the Great Scheme.

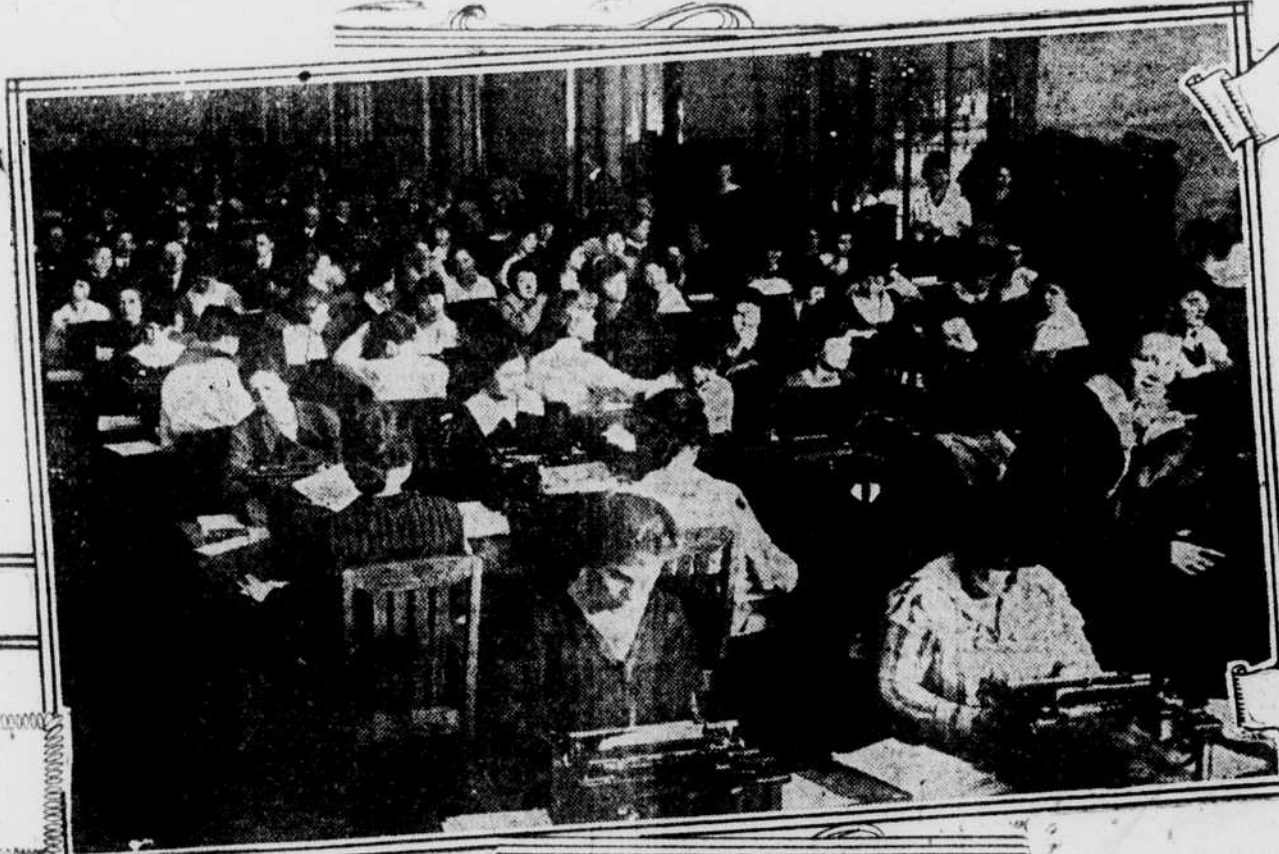
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AS THE WHOLE country knows by this time, Uncle Sam has gone into the insurance business. And this is the first instance in all history where a government has done such a thing. But that is not the only amazing and interesting fact about this new war-time venture of your Uncle Samuel. There are many other truly remarkable phases of the enterprise. Consider a few of them:

He's A World Champion.

Already Uncle Sam has proved himself the champion insurance solicitor of the world. In three months the War Risk Insurance Bureau succeeded in writing nearly five billion dollars

in insurance policies to soldiers and sailors. No life insurance corporation in the United States or in the world can make a like showing; but this does not induce Uncle Sam to sit back and relax his efforts. On the contrary, he makes the announcement that he regards these totals—already record-breaking—as only a beginning! Let us take a turn around this war bureau which, mushroom-like, has sprung into large proportions almost overnight. In the first place, its offices are housed in a museum, a market and a hospital—the crowded condition prevailing at present in Washington making this necessary. In charge of the work with the



War Risk Insurance Workers in the National Museum

title of director is William C. Delaney, who has held this position since the creation of the bureau. John T. Crowley, an insurance man of Hartford, Conn., is assistant director. Charles F. Nesbitt, formerly superintendent of insurance for the District of Columbia, and for twenty years in the insurance business, is commissioner of the military and naval division. The corps of workers, directed by these men, comprises one of the largest forces at work in any one war bureau in the National Capital today.

Fifty-Fifty In Supporting Dependents.

The four phases of the War Risk Insurance Act indicates the breadth of its scope. In the first place, the law provided for the support during the war of the enlisted man's dependents by allotment and allowance of certain sums made up from his pay envelope and Uncle Sam's pocketbook. In other words, the government promises to go fifty-fifty with every enlisted man in the service in the support of his loved ones while he serves his country.

Secondly, the government says that it regards the work of war the same as that of any other perilous profession—similar to the grant a workman's compensation—to all enlisted men and officers for their partial or total disability incurred in the pursuit of that work.

Thirdly, insurance against death or total permanent disability is sold by the government at the lowest possible rate, to all alike, and without medical

examination.

Lastly, the government will provide facilities for rehabilitating the injured and reeducating those who are unable after they get well to resume their former occupation. At the outset all men already in the service were allowed until February 12 last, to apply for insurance, but later the time limit was extended to April 13, inclusive. Also, a newly drafted man has 120 days in which to apply for insurance after he actually enters the service.

Such is the tremendous scope of this great war act. General John J. Pershing, said of it when he applied for the full \$10,000 of insurance: "The army in France is pleased at the announcement that the soldiers' and sailors' insurance bill is now a law. By this act our government has given its soldiers a privilege which no other country has ever granted. The very low rate and other advantages of this insurance are so manifest that it is hoped that every man in the army who needs insurance for those dependent upon him will avail himself of this generous offer. I have made application myself."

Advantages Of The Scheme Are Many. While this insurance and compensation provision may be said to supplant all future special pension legislation for wounded soldiers and ultimately take the place of the pension office when its pensioners all pass away, there are many other advantages upon which it bases its claim to merit. Suppose we consider all its phases singly.

By means of the allowance for support of the enlisted man's dependents this country for the first time makes an actual provision in advance for the wife and loved ones of any man who wears the uniform of his country. This just and generous measure says that the families of the men in the service of this country shall not be dependent, as heretofore, upon the charity of the communities in which they live; nor shall they be required to turn to some relative or friend for their support.

Payment For Service Instead Of A Gratuity.

Compensation is very much like the present pension except in the underlying thought; instead of being a gratuity it is a payment for disability on the same principle that any employer pays his workmen compensation when they are disabled or killed in the line of service.

Uncle Sam says, in this respect, that if his soldiers and sailors, officers or enlisted men, Army or Navy nurses incur injury or contract disease in the line of duty, he will pay them a compensation of from \$30 to \$100 a month, and should he die, compensation of from \$20 to \$75 a month will be paid to his wife, his child, or his widowed mother.

In addition to this the injured man is going to be supplied with governmental medical and surgical treatment and with such appliances as he may need—artificial limbs, eyes and things of that kind.

In order, however, to fully protect each person and family, Uncle Sam advocates that every soldier, sailor and nurse obtain life insurance. And

this brings us to the third consideration of the War Insurance Law.

Says Secretary McArdoo in regard to it: "In this law the government has taken for its men the most advanced step in the history of the world. When a man puts the uniform on, it makes no difference how strong he is, how perfect every vital organ, or how good a risk he may be for a life insurance company in time of peace, he cannot get life insurance. There isn't a company in America that would insure him except at prohibitive rates.

Private Rates Too High For Enlisted Men.

"When I took up this insurance bill, I wanted to find out what could be done for the men in the way of giving them life insurance. The insurance representatives told me that \$50.00 a thousand was the lowest figure at which any company could afford to take such a risk, and then only for a year. At the end of the year they might increase the rate. So that if you desired to take out life insurance from a private company it would cost \$580.00 a year for \$10,000 of insurance. That manifestly puts life insurance beyond the reach of the enlisted man.

"It is provided in this law that every man in the Army and Navy of the United States may within four months after enlistment—he must exercise this privilege within four months, but he does not have to do so—take from \$1,000 to \$10,000 of insurance. From whom? Not from a private corporation but from our Government.

"The rate at which you take this

insurance," Mr. McArdoo went on to explain, "is based upon what is called the American table of mortality in times of peace. This table represents the actual cost of insurance, without any overhead charges, without any commission to agents, without any salaries to officers, without any cost of advertising, without any expensive office rent or anything of that sort. The Government will pay all these overhead charges itself.

"The rate that the men will pay ranges from 65 cents monthly, at the age of 21, to \$1.20, at the age of 51, for each \$1,000 of insurance. The policies will be payable on death. For total permanent disability the proceeds will be given to the soldiers and sailors in 240 monthly installments. It is the best investment in the world, because when the men get back into civil life again that insurance continues. It can still be carried and then men will not have to reimburse themselves at higher rates in private companies."

Injured Men To Be Made Self-Supporting.

A very important provision of the bill is the provision for reeducation and rehabilitation of injured men. Briefly this provision aims to reeducate each man, who is injured in such a way that he cannot resume the occupation or trade in which he was engaged before the war, so that he may be rendered capable to spend the rest of his life in some other work, equally useful or remunerative. In connection with this opportunity given to the men to learn useful trades whereby they may support themselves the Government will continue to pay him the full amount to which he is entitled for his disability.

